

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program

Project Description

Project Title	Imperial Valley Science Project Teacher Retention Initiative		
Grant Amount: \$334,000	Grant Period: February 1, 2007 to January 30, 2011		
Grade Level: 7 -12	Subject Matter: Science		
Institute of Higher Education	<input type="checkbox"/> SDSU-Imperial Valley Campus		
Local Education Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Additional Partners:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Need for Project/ Population To Be Served:	<p>Student achievement scores in science in the Imperial Valley lag behind those of peers throughout the state. For example, in biology only 26% of students are proficient or advanced as measured by the CSTs. Teachers currently working with these students at the middle and high school levels are not all qualified. Some do not meet NCLB requirements (e.g., 32% in Calexico Unified still need to pass the CSET). Pass rate on the CSET for those in the Imperial Valley is 44.5% as compared to 72.2% of students in San Diego county. Over the past 5 years, there has been an attrition rate of 37% of all students enrolled in credential programs. This, when combined with the lack of science content courses offered locally, create a tremendous need for IV teachers.</p>		
Project Goals:	<p>Three major project goals will be addressed. They are 1) teacher retention; 2) research; and 3) dissemination. From these emerge a number of specific objectives which include a) furthering content knowledge for induction and non-NCLB compliant teachers; b) preparing teachers to take and pass the CSET exam; c) create a teacher learning community among those in science departments in middle and high schools; d) enhance pedagogical knowledge in areas which integrate science and literacy as well as strategies for addressing needs of English learners; e) develop a research-friendly environment where teams of educators reflect on practices and make improvements based on findings; and f) provide the science community at large with results</p>		
Summary of Activities:	<p>The project will offer intensive content sessions that will be offered as university courses from the College of Sciences. At least 40 hours of follow-up work to each of the courses will also be required. Sessions on CSET preparation will be offered twice per year. Day-long sessions on the infusion of literacy and others on how to effectively instruct diverse learners will be offered twice per semester. Lesson Study will serve as a professional development component that will bring a cross section of teachers with different levels of experience together. Part of this activity will include videotaping of lessons that teachers can then use to study and further their own pedagogical knowledge. One of our E-mentors, Yolanda Guerrero will serve as the mentor for local participants and this will be ongoing throughout the academic year. Student data will also be collected, analyzed and provided to the project administration as required. The project staff will also prepare presentations and manuscripts to disseminate information and results from the project.</p>		
Outcomes Expected:	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher participation in both professional development activities and professional learning communities will provide professional support, encouragement and community that enables effective teaching and generates long term commitments to the students and schools where they practice.		
Teachers Served	120	Students Served	6000
Project Website:			
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